

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2062
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AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 12412

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OREP (RICHARDSON, WILLIAM), FT,ET,SO,FR
SUBJECT: STAFFDEL RICHARDSON CALL ON FONMIN KIFLE: TFAI

REF: STATE 274215

1. DURING COURSE OF 45-MINUTE DISCUSSION WITH EPMG FONMIN
KIFLE WODAJI DEC 13 BEING REPORTED SEPTTEL (NOTAL).
RICHARDSON ASKED FOR KIFLE'S VIEWS ON TFAI. KIFLE REPLIED
THAT EPMG WAS VERY MUCH CONCERNED THAT SOMALI POLICY OF
ANNEXATION WOULD RELATE DIRECTLY TO PROBLEM OF PEACE IN
AREA AS INDEED MAY WHOLE PROCESS OF DECOLONIZATION. THERE
WAS NOW GREATER AWARENESS OF THIS POSSIBILITY IN AFRICA.
ETHIOPIANS HAD SHOWN PROFF OF THEIR GOOD WILL, BUT
SOMALIS WERE PURSUING THEIR OBJECTIVE SINGLE-MINDEDLY.
AN APPARENT LACK OF A DEFINITE FRENCH POLICY MADE IT
EASIER FOR SOMALIA. INDEED FRANCE WANTS TO "APPEASE"
SOMALIA BECAUSE SOMALIA CAN "MAKE TROUBLE" FOR FRANCE
BY CAUSING PROBLEMS THAT COULD IMPACT ON FRENCH PEOPLE
AND ON FRENCH POSITION IN TFAI. FRANCE HAS ACCORDINGLY
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RELAXED SECURITY AND AS RESULT SOMALIA HAS PRODUCED
AGENTS TO INFLUENCE POLITICAL PROCESS. FRANCE IN
SHORT HAD NO COORDINATED POSITION. FRENCH HICOMER
WAS WORKING OUT "DEAL " WITH SOMALIS TO SAVE FACE AND
HAD OVERSOLD PARIS ON HIS APPROACH.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION WHETHER EPMG WOULD CONSIDER TAKING ANY MEASURE TO PREEMPT SOMALI MOVES TOWARD DJIBOUTI, KIFLE ANSWERED RATHER VAGUELY. IMPACT SEEMED TO BE THAT EPMG WOULD NOT. HE HOWEVER, ADDED THAT "FAIT ACCOMPLI WOULD MEET OUR (UNSPECIFIED) RESPONSE". OTHER OPTIONS WOULD BE ASSISTANCE FROM UN AND/OR OAU. HE ALSO HOPED USSR WOULD RESTRAIN SOMALIS. MAJORITY OF PEOPLE IN DJIBOUTI DO NOT FAVOR SOMALIS. ASKED IF HE COULD FORESEE ROLE FOR OTHER STATES IN TFAI PROBLEM, HE RESPONDED THAT ALL STATES HAVE ROLE IN REMOVING SOURCE OF CONFLICT. USG, OTHERS, AND PARTICULARLY UN AND OAU, COULD HELP.

3. QUERIED ON EPMG'S ATTITUDE TOWARD POSSIBLE FRENCH RESIDUAL MILITARY FORCE, KIFLE MORE OR LESS SIDESTEPED QUESTION. HE SAW A PROBLEM IN EXTENT TO WHICH ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA COULD EXERCISE RESTRAINT ON FRENCH BEHAVIOR. SOMALIS MAY THINK THEY CAN ACHIEVE THEIR OBJECTIVE THROUGH NORMAL POLITICAL PROCESS AND/OR USE OF MONEY. A SECOND OPTION WOULD BE USE OF MILITARY CAPABILITY TO PRECIPITATE A COUP AFTER INDEPENDENCE (HE MAINTAINED SOMALIA ALREADY HAS 100 TRAINED COMMANDOS FOR THAT PURPOSE). AT THAT POINT EPMG WOULD ANTICIPATE CALLING ON UN AND OAU. IT WOULD REMAIN TO BE SEEN WHETHER FRENCH INTERVENTION WOULD SUFFICE.

4. RICHARDSON REQUESTS THAT COPY OF THIS TELEGRAM BE FORWARDED TO HIM IN WASHINGTON BY DEPT. TIENKEN
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